

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph starting at page 23, line 6 and ending at line 20 has been amended as follows.

In the third scanning, the printing medium P is conveyed in the sub-scanning direction by a conveyance amount of 2/600 inches. Only data at the bit position "c" out of the pixel data in Fig. 7A is selected and printed using orifices n3 and n4 for the image region I, the orifices n5 and n6 for the image region II, and the orifices n7 and n8 for the image region III. More specifically, printing is done in the forward direction along the main scanning direction while ink is discharged to the same lattice ~~point~~ points as those in the first and second scanning operations only at the first half of the discharge timing corresponding to 1/2 of the 600-dpi printing pixel in the main scanning direction. A printing dot is laid out and printed for each pixel at the position "a" in Fig.7B.

The paragraph starting at page 23, line 21 and ending at page 24, line 9 has been amended as follows.

In the fourth scanning, the printing medium P is conveyed in the sub-scanning direction by a conveyance amount of 2/600 inches. Only data at the bit position "d" out of the pixel data in Fig. 7A is selected and printed using orifices n1 and n2 for the image region I, the orifices n3 and n4 for the image region II, the orifices n5 and n6 for the image region III, and the orifices n7 and n8 for the image region IV. More specifically, printing is done in the forward direction along the main scanning direction while ink is discharged to the same lattice ~~point~~

points as those in the first to third scanning operations only at the first half of the discharge timing corresponding to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 600-dpi printing pixel in the main scanning direction. A printing dot is laid out and printed for each pixel at the position "a" in Fig. 7B.

The heading at page 46, line 25 has been amended as follows.

<Other ~~Embodiment~~ Embodiments>

The paragraph starting at page 49, line 7 and ending at line 25 has been amended as follows.

In the above embodiments, either the first printing operation mode in which one dot layout pattern (e.g., the dot layout pattern as shown in Fig. 7C) is assigned to pixels at the same level in which the same number of dots are printed, or the second printing operation mode in which plural types of dot layout patterns (e.g., the dot layout patterns as shown in Fig. 10C) are assigned to pixels at the same level in which the same number of dots are printed is selected on the basis of at least either one of information on the printing medium size and information on the image data size. However, the present invention is not limited to this. For example, these printing modes may be arbitrarily selected by the user. In this case, the mode may be selected by a switch attached to the operation unit 306 of the printing apparatus. Alternatively, the mode may be selected on a property selection screen of a printer driver installed in a host computer connected to the printing apparatus.

The paragraph starting at page 51, line 4 and ending at line 11 has been amended as follows.

In the above ~~embodiment~~ embodiments, droplets discharged from the printhead are ink droplets, and liquid stored in the ink tank is ink. However, the liquid to be stored in the ink tank is not limited to ink. For example, ~~processed~~ processing liquid or the like to be discharged onto a print medium so as to improve the fixing property or water repellency of a printed image or its image quality may be contained in the ink tank.